

VZCZCXRO2553

PP RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHDH RUEHKUK RUEHROV
DE RUEHLB #1181 3011526
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 281526Z OCT 09
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5961
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 2709
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0525
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 4198

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 001181

SIPDIS

STATE FOR IO/MPR BRIAN HACKETT
LONDON FOR EST J. WHITTLESEY, USCG FOR CG-52 AND
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
USUN/MR FOR BRUCE RASHKOW

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/27/2019

TAGS: AORC APER KJUS KUNR PHSA PREL UNGA UNGA

IMOLE, EWWT, LE
SUBJECT: LEBANON REQUESTS ICAO VOTE IN EXCHANGE FOR IMO AND
ICSC VOTES

REF: A. STATE 98012

1B. STATE 109341

Classified By: DCM Thomas F. Daughton for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) We delivered ref A demarche regarding the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on September 30 and ref B demarche on the UN International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) (ref B) on October 23 to both MFA Americas desk officer Reina Charbel and Acting Director General of the MFA Department of International Organizations Walid Haedar. On October 28, we received a diplomatic note requesting support from the United States for Lebanon's membership in the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) category "3" at the ICAO elections, to be held during the 37th ICAO Assembly in September 2010, in exchange for Lebanon's support for the election of the United States to the IMO.

12. (C) In a follow-up conversation with poloff on October 28, Haedar explained that Lebanon would also support the candidacy of Ms. Lucretia Myers to the ICSC in exchange for U.S. support for Lebanon's ICAO candidacy. Haedar preferred that the agreement be purely a "gentleman's agreement" and sought to avoid a precedent of exchanging two votes of support for the United States while only asking for one vote in return. Haedar suggested that if the United States could not support Lebanon in the ICAO -- which he said was Lebanon's priority -- it would accept U.S. support for Lebanon's candidacy to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) instead. Poloff told Haedar that post would relay the MFA's request to Washington but noted that the United States does not normally enter into agreements of reciprocal support in secret ballot elections for multilateral organizations and gave no promises of a vote-swapping arrangement.

SISON